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Volume 1, Issue 9 -- July 26, 2013

## The Write Stuff



Dear Friend,

Earlier this summer, I was driving through the San Luis Valley-- an area I'm sure is familiar to many of you. As I drove some 120 miles up the length of the valley, it was the first time I'd ever driven through in daylight without being able to see either the San Juan Mountains to the west or the Sangre de Cristo range to the east, bordering the valley from 75 miles apart.

It was the peak of the West Fork fire complex that has burned over 100,000 acres, and it was a vivid sign of the times in Colorado, when sustained drought and wild fires have become part of the fabric of summer.

As my eyes watered from the smoke in the valley, President Obama was giving an historic speech about climate change, one of the most ambitious speeches I can recall from a sitting president addressing our human impact on the natural environment.

In addition to calling for dramatic reduction in carbon pollution -- most notably from power plants --, a doubling of clean, renewable energy production in the next seven years, a long-overdue coming to grips with adapting to the irreversible effects of climate change, and a welcome sense of global responsibility with the international community, President Obama also called for individual accountability.

"What we need in this fight are citizens who will stand up, and speak up, and compel us to do what this moment demands," Obama said. "Speak up at town halls, church groups, PTA meetings. Push back on misinformation. Speak

### IN THIS ISSUE



- ★ [Climate Change in Colorado](#)
- ★ [A Winning Quarter](#)
- ★ [Community Conversation -- The School Finance Act Ballot Initiative](#)
- ★ [Upcoming Events](#)
- ★ [Ralph Nordhouser and Walter Hurst](#)
- ★ [Defending the Colorado State Senate](#)

★ [Defending the State Senate](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS



- ★ [Democratic Party of Denver Annual Picnic, Ruby Hill Park - W. Florida and S. Osage, Sunday, August 4 from 1-5 p.m.](#)
- ★ [Funding for Public Schools Action Forum, Decker Public Library - 1501 S. Logan, Tuesday, August 6 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.](#)

up for the facts....And remind everyone who represents you at every level of government that sheltering future generations against the ravages of climate change is a prerequisite for your vote."

I'm proud that Colorado has been a leader in pursuing renewable energy, that we've helped establish the scientific standards on climate change, and that we've embraced the challenge of adapting to the needs of a changing environment.

But we're not doing nearly enough. The scientific data has been piling up for decades, and though we celebrate the fact that "only" three of our Congressional delegation (Scott Tipton, Corey Gardner, and Doug Lamborn) still deny the science of climate change, those of us who acknowledge reality need to be more proactive in addressing our impacts on weather, health, security, and the economy.

Steadily rising temperatures result in steadily decreasing watershed resources in our already arid western climate, decreased air quality, increased health risks, and increased fire threat.

Rather than wallow in doom and gloom, however, concerned activists are determined to take action and affect change. A small group of activists with Organizing for Action met at my house last week to plan immediate action in August to change the conversation on climate change, to elevate awareness, and to heed Obama's call to stand up and answer the demand of the moment.

We're working to plan a "community conversation" in August, hopefully a Town Hall Meeting with one or more of our members of Congress to highlight the immediate and long-term effects of climate change in Colorado, to address President Obama's Climate Change Action Plan, and to look at solutions we can undertake on the local level.

Colorado has led on many fronts when it comes to the environment, energy, and climate change, and given our unique combination of natural resources and ecological vulnerability, it's imperative that we set the standard moving forward.

If you'd like to get involved in planning our August action on climate change, drop me a note at [owenperk@aol.com](mailto:owenperk@aol.com). I'll keep you posted as details evolve, and you can check for updates and move information by [clicking here for my Climate Change Resource Page on my website](#). You'll find the President's speech, his plan, fact sheets about the effects of climate change in Colorado, a couple of my articles about fire and drought in the West, and other information there.

★ [HD2 Day of Action, Denver Dems Headquarters - 574 S. Broadway, Saturday, August 10 from 10a.m. - 1 p.m.](#)

★ [House District 2 Democrats Monthly Meeting - Friends Meeting House, 2280 S. Columbine in Denver, Saturday, August 17 at 9 a.m](#)

★ [House District 2 Day of Action -- Defending Our Senate, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Denver Canvassing and Calling in Support of Senate President John Morse and Senator Angela Giron, Saturday, August 24, location and time TBD](#)

[istrict 2 Democrats Monthly Meeting - Friends Meeting House, 2280 S. Columbine in Denver, Saturday, August 17 at 9 a.m. House District 2 Democrats Monthly Meeting - Friends Meeting House, 2280 S. Columbine in Denver, Saturday, August 17 at 9 a.m](#)

**VIDEO OF PAST EVENTS**

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★ [Senator Mike Johnston Discusses Funding Public Schools with Denver Young Dems, June 27, 2013](#)

★ [Town Hall Conversation with Congresswoman Diana DeGette, May 30, 2013](#)

★ [Campaign Kickoff and Birthday Bash at the Bonnet, May 22, 2013](#)

★ [Speaker Mark Ferrandino's Legislative Summary with the Denver](#)

If you're new to my newsletter, welcome aboard! I look forward to engaging with you on this and other topics as my campaign continues, and we'll be loading archives of my previous eight newsletters to [www.owenperkins.org](http://www.owenperkins.org) this weekend if you're looking for more summer reading.

## A Winning Quarter

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The primary is just under a year away, so don't expect anyone to make any "Mission Accomplished" proclamations this far out, but we had reason to be thankful as a milestone passed this month. Last week campaigns across Colorado got the official reports on 2nd quarter fundraising from the Secretary of State's office, and I couldn't be prouder of the news that **People for Perkins out-raised every legislative campaign in Denver during our first full quarter of campaigning**. You can spin the numbers a lot of different ways --we were also first in spending! -- but the bottom line is that **our supporters contributed an incredible \$18,596 to my campaign**. Thanks so much to the over 100 contributors in the quarter, and to every one who has helped fuel this campaign through its first five months.

The fact is the top three fundraisers among candidates and elected officials in Denver's eight house districts and four senate districts are all from House District 2, with each of our three candidates having a great 2nd quarter. Along with House District 1 (which has only one candidate filed so far), we have the only two open seats without an incumbent running in Denver, as **Speaker Mark Ferrandino and Representative Jeanne Labuda** will both be term-limited out of office after next year.

Winning the fundraising race means very little if we're not ultimately winning the votes, so the work goes on as we continue to build momentum and support for a campaign of the people, for the people.

I've said it before, but the "**People**" in "People for Perkins" means much more than a little alliteration. My campaign is focused on the individuals in House District 2, building on relationships forged through years of grassroots work in our neighborhoods, and I'm committed to ensuring House District 2's voices are heard loudly and clearly with strong, trusted leadership at the State Capitol.

On that note, I'm especially proud that so much of the support for my campaign is coming from within the district. I'm extremely appreciative that those who have known me from different parts of my life are contributing to my campaign, but as you can imagine, little means more than having the backing of the folks I hope to represent under the

[Young Dems and DU Dems, May 21, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2's Monthly Meeting, May 18, 2013](#)

★ [Veterans and Military Family's Caucus, Democratic National Convention, September 3, 2012](#)

★ [Colorado's First Civil Union Ceremony, May 1, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2's Day at the Capitol, April 26, 2013](#)

★ [Colorado Social Legislation Committee's Forum on Homelessness, April 22, 2013](#)

★ [House District 2 Monthly Meeting, April 20, 2013](#)

★ [Colorado Social Legislation Committee's Forum on Fracking, April 8, 2013](#)

★ [President Obama's Remarks on Gun Safety at the Denver Policy Academy, April 3, 2013](#)

## Thanks to My Birthday Bash at The Bonnet Hosts

\*\*\*\*\*

*Lori Anderson and Lew Gaiter, Jr.  
Sarah Bradley  
Ray Ehrenstein and Jim Sample  
Frosty and Sam Frostman  
Lisa Hartman  
Janet Hartmann  
Arnold Krupat  
Nancy Larson  
Larry Latta*

golden dome. While we don't have the data completely broken down by district yet, we know that **74% of my donations for the quarter came from Denver, while my two friends and opponents in the race combined for 50% of their 2nd quarter contributions coming from our city.** This level of local support is extremely significant to me. Thanks so much for your confidence and enthusiasm!

If you haven't had a chance to contribute yet, this is your moment! I'm on target for my long-range goals, but I need to keep pace this summer and fall, and I'd welcome your support at any level. As someone who only takes contributions from individuals -- this is a PAC-free campaign -- I can't tell you how much every \$5 and \$10 "grassroots" contribution means. We may have won the quarter, but the race to the primary next June is essentially six quarters long in HD2, and it's going to take a lot of little money to make the big difference I aim to make with you at the Capitol. I hope you'll give what you can as this race intensifies, and I thank you for your strong support to date. Forward, friends!



[Please click the button to contribute on our secure Act Blue page](#), or send a check to:

**People for Perkins**  
P.O. Box 102261  
Denver, Colorado 80250-2261.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Funding Public Schools**  
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By now, you should be hearing about our School Board Elections coming up this November. Many in House District 2 have been represented by **Jeanne Kaplan**, and she is term-limited out of office at the end of this cycle. In addition to a race to replace her, all of our House District will be voting for an at-large School Board Member to replace **Mary Seawall**, who is not seeking re-election. (I actually just got a phone call from a candidate as I write this.)

- Karen Lucas and Bob Barrett*
- Denis Moynihan*
- Tim Naylor*
- Wells Obrecht*
- Tom Parson*
- Anne Perkins*
- Pat Perkins*
- Mary and Peter Peterson*
- Carolyn Pickton*
- T.R. Reid*
- Pete Smith*
- Rex Stephenson*
- Frank Sullivan*
- Dianne Thiel*
- Debra Turner-Kelly*
- Tom Waxter*
- Mike Worford*

**Thanks to My  
Baseball Fundraiser  
Hosts**

\*\*\*\*\*

- Kevin Brauer*
- Susan Sanders*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thanks to My  
"Book  
of Mormon"  
Heavenly Hosts**

\*\*\*\*\*

*(host list in formation -  
add your name!)*

- Kevin Brauer*
- Judith Burke*
- Peggy Burnette*
- Anne Farrell*
- Jason Gallardo*
- Sarah Hafner*
- Elizabeth Harris*
- Brendon Hayden*
- Steven Hollis*
- Ana and Russell Kemp*
- Beth and Michael McClellan*
- Mohsen Pazirandeh*
- Kaye Siemers*
- Sally Stein*
- Brian Stockmar*

Odds are you've also heard about **Proposed Ballot Initiative 22**, providing **roughly \$1 billion in restored funding for Colorado's public schools** after years of cuts in the midst of the recession. Folks have been circulating petitions to get the measure on the ballot, and several of us have helped gather signatures throughout the district.

The **two-tiered income tax** aims to support **Senate Bill 213, The School Finance Act**, which would be moot without the voter-approved tax increase to provide the funds for our schools. Education issues almost always stir controversy in Colorado these days, but despite the desire among some for a better bill, there is widespread support from education activists to support the initiative and the increased -- if imperfect -- funding for public schools.

With the hope of better educating activists about Proposed Initiative 22, House District 2 is hosting a forum on the Initiative and the School Finance Act on **Tuesday, August 6th at 6 p.m. in the Decker Public Library at 1501 S. Logan.**

The forum will feature the bill's co-author, **Senator Mike Johnston**, our own **Speaker Mark Ferrandino**, **Sue Caterall** (of Great Education Colorado), and others as we discuss the merits of the initiative, explore concerns around it, and equip activists to discuss the initiative door-to-door in the months leading up to the November election.

The forum will be followed by a **Day of Action** on **Saturday, August 10th**, when House District 2 activists will hit the streets and phones to touch base with neighbors and potentially discuss ballot initiatives like Proposed Initiative 22 and Referendum AA, the proposed marijuana sales tax.

Space is limited at the forum, so if you'd like to participate in either the **forum** or the **Day of Action**, please RSVP to me at [owenperk@aol.com](mailto:owenperk@aol.com). For more information, [please click here](#).

## Defending the Senate

I'm sure by now you've heard quite a bit about Colorado's first-ever recall elections, with our **Senate President John Morse** of Colorado Springs and **Senator Angela Giron** of Pueblo both being targeted for unprecedented recalls based on their courageous support of common sense gun safety legislation.

While Congress balked at passing the kind of legislation that vast majorities of Americans were clamoring for this year,

Colorado led the way. Morse and Giron were with the majority in both chambers in standing up to special interest groups and taking action to protect Coloradans.

"We had 20 six-year-olds shot in the face, and we have the other side arguing we should do nothing. I'm sorry, but that doesn't cut it," Morse said in response to last fall's Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

At the heart of the recall elections are new laws in Colorado requiring universal background checks for gun purchases and a limit of magazine capacity. As you might imagine, outside interests are playing a huge role in the campaigns, with organizations like the National Rifle Association and Mayors Against Illegal Guns certain to saturate both September 10th recall elections with a flood of money.

"There doesn't seem to be any question that money's coming from outside the state to say, 'look, if you do this, we can take out the Senate president -- we can take out anyone across the entire country if you decide to implement common-sense gun legislation,'" Morse said.

Morse, Giron, and the rest of the legislators from across Colorado did what we see too rarely from our elected officials. They stood up for constituents, kept campaign promises, held to their values, and voted their conscience.

Now it's up to us. Special interest groups can fund these recall campaigns, but the votes will be won by grassroots action, going door-to-door, phone-to-phone in Colorado Springs and Pueblo to defend those who stand for the people of Colorado.

House District 2 has a growing tradition of lending our resources and people power to help support candidates in more vulnerable parts of our state, and I ask for those from HD2 and beyond to join in supporting Senators Morse and Giron between now and the September 10th recall election.

We are tentatively planning a **Day of Action on Saturday, August 24th**, and potentially another on **Saturday, September 7th** to defend the Colorado Senate from these recall campaigns. We hope to travel to Pueblo and Colorado Springs to help mobilize supporters, and we expect to phone bank from Denver for those who can't make the trip.

If you're interested in helping on August 24th, please contact me at [owenperk@aol.com](mailto:owenperk@aol.com). There's no more important effort we can make this summer.

If you've got more time, the campaigns in Pueblo and Colorado Springs will be working every day from now through the election. Please use the information below to contact the campaigns if you can help.

**Senator Angela Giron, Pueblo**  
[PuebloUnitedforAngela@gmail.com](mailto:PuebloUnitedforAngela@gmail.com), (719) 285-9720

**Senate President John Morse, Colorado Springs**  
[Christy@peakdems.org](mailto:Christy@peakdems.org), (719) 475-2211

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## Upcoming Events

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- Sunday, August 4 -- **Democratic Party of Denver Annual Picnic** at Ruby Hill Park, W. Florida and S. Osage, from 1-4 p.m. This is always a highlight of the summer, with great friends, activists, and elected officials from across the county coming together to celebrate our successes and fire ourselves up for the work ahead. Tickets are \$10. [Please click here for more information or to purchase tickets.](#)
- Tuesday, August 6 - **Funding for Public Schools Action Forum** with **Senator Mike Johnston, Speaker Mark Ferrandino**, and more. At the Decker Public Library, 1501 S. Logan, from 6:00- 7:30 p.m. [Please click here](#) for more information.
- Saturday, August 10 - **House District 2 Day of Action** canvassing for Funding for Public Schools. Meet at the Democratic Party of Denver's headquarters, 574 S. Broadway at 10 a.m.
- Saturday, August 17 - **House District 2 Democrats Monthly Meeting** at the **Friends Meeting House** at 2280 S. Columbine, near DU. The meeting is from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., with social time, coffee and sweets at 8:30.
- Saturday, August 24 - **House District 2 Day of Action - Defending Our Senate** (tentative). Join HD2 activists and others as we journey to Pueblo and Colorado Springs to support Senate President John Morse and Senator Angela Giron in their recall elections. .

## News From our Neighbors

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There's good news and sad news from the extended community of our district and Denver.

I'm sorry to pass along the news that a lifelong activist and mentor to many, **Ralph Nordhauser**, passed away on June 27th. Ralph was an active volunteer for the Democratic Party of Denver for nearly 70 years, serving as a long-time House District Captain and winning the **2010 Lifetime Achievement Award** from the Denver Dems.

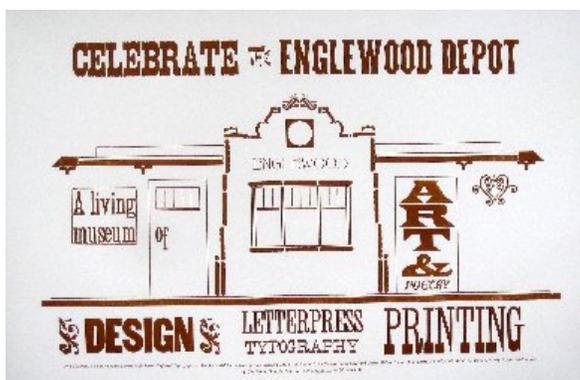
Ralph was one of the first people I met when I raised my level of commitment and ran for County Secretary. I loved attending his meetings across town while serving as Secretary, and I learned a tremendous amount about community organizing and leadership from him. He inspired generations of activists and leaves an enduring legacy in our community. [Please click here for House District 6A Captain Jim Corlett's tribute to Ralph.](#)

This past Sunday, we lost another long-time activist when **Walter Hurst** passed away. I met Walter on the first of my many visits to House District 1, and he was a constant presence in the district as I joined neighbors there for meetings and events. His parents were legends in the Democratic Party, **Leonard and June Hurst**, and Leonard was also a **Lifetime Achievement Award winner** from the Democratic Party of Denver.

There will be a Memorial Service for Walter on **Saturday, July 27 at 3:00 PM at Horan & McConaty Family Chapel, 3101 South Wadsworth Boulevard.**

On a happier note, House District 2 Chair **Barry Sarver** and **Brenda Riske** are celebrating 30 years of marriage next week! Congratulations, Barry and Brenda, and thanks for enriching our community for so many years.

Finally, congratulations are in order for former House District 2A Captain **Tom Parson**, whose bid to purchase the historic **Englewood Depot** and preserve it as a living museum of letterpress typography, an active studio and resource center, and a community cultural center was



approved by the Englewood City Council earlier this month. We look forward to The Depot opening its doors and to helping Tom build a new sense of community through this great Englewood resource.

Thanks so much for keeping in touch and reading the news from my campaign in House District 2. If you've read this

far, I hope you'll [click here to join HD2's newly revitalized Facebook page](#), and please invite your friends from the district to join us in the 21st century!

Please don't hesitate to call or write if you've got news to share, concerns to raise, or ideas to bounce around. See you around the district!

Sincerely,

Owen Perkins  
Candidate for Colorado State Representative  
House District 2  
[www.OwenPerkins.org](http://www.OwenPerkins.org); (303) 722-1655



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